

Serial No.: 10/673,207
Docket No.: 101-1004
Amendment After Final dated October 21, 2008
Reply to the Final Office Action of July 23, 2008

REMARKS

Introduction

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that each of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement of October 27, 2005 have been considered.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-13, 39, 40 and 41 are pending in the application. No claims have been amended. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Finality of the Next Action Is Precluded

Applicants respectfully request that the Office confirm the status of claim 41, which was not addressed by the Office Action mailed July 23, 2008. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office's failure to acknowledge claim 41 precludes the finality of a next Office action rejecting that claim, because such a rejection will not have been necessitated by either a claim amendment or based on information from an information disclosure statement. (See MPEP § 706.07(a)).

Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,019,869 to Chen.

Independent Claim 1

Applicants respectfully submit that Chen, as relied upon by the Examiner, fails to teach or disclose each limitation as recited in the claim. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that a

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USB drive 481 and a printer 482 could be interpreted to respectively read on Applicants' "storage unit" and "printing unit" of claim 1. However, Chen in fact fails to teach or disclose, among other things, Applicants' limitation of "a printing unit reading the scanned result from the storage unit to print the scanned result," as recited in independent claim 1 for at least the following reasons.

Chen does not state that the printer 482 of Chen reads anything from the Chen USB drive 481. The Examiner asserts on page 3 of the Office Action mailed July 23, 2008 that "printer 482 can be used to print the scanned data which will read the data before it is printed out." (*Emphasis added*). The Examiner is citing a possible intended use of the printer 482 of Chen. Contrarily, Applicants are positively reciting Applicants' printer "reading the scanned result" and not just being capable of "reading the scanned result." Further, the Examiner's assertion is unsubstantiated since the citation in Chen provided by the Examiner fails to teach or disclose "a printing unit reading the scanned result from the storage unit." More specifically, column 6, lines 34-45 of Chen states, among other things, "the paperless image fax-scanning apparatus 400 further connects with the USB device 481 and the printer 482 permitting the user either to print the fax data or the scanned data through a printer, or store the data using the USB device 481." (*Emphasis added*). Thus, the printer 482 of Chen is limited to reading fax or scanned data, and not data from Chen's USB device 481. Therefore, Chen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, Applicants' "printing unit reading the scanned result from the storage unit to print the scanned result," as recited in independent claim 1.

Since Chen fails to teach or disclose each limitation of independent claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Chen. Thus, claim 1 is deemed allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 1 are earnestly solicited.

Claims 2-5 and 7

Claims 2-5 and 7 are also deemed allowable due to at least their dependency on allowable claim 1. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 2-5 and 7 are earnestly solicited.

Independent Claim 9

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Applicants respectfully submit that Chen, as relied upon by the Examiner, fails to teach or disclose each limitation as recited in the claim. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that a floppy disc drive 420, Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCM-CIA) slot 421, or USB drive 481 could be interpreted to read on Applicants' "storage unit" of claim 9. However, Chen in fact fails to teach or disclose, among other things, Applicants' limitation of "the scanning and/or printing unit prints the scanned result read from the storage units," as recited in independent claim 9 for at least the following reasons.

Chen does not state that the printer 482 of Chen reads anything from the Chen floppy disc drive 420, PCM-CIA slot 421, or USB drive 481. The Examiner asserts on page 3 of the Office Action mailed July 23, 2008 that the "printer 482 is used for printing scanned result or scanned data and the data is first stored in the storage units first and therefore it is read from the storage unit." However, the Examiner's assertion is unsubstantiated since the citation in Chen provided by the Examiner fails to teach or disclose "scanning and/or printing unit prints the scanned result read from the storage units." More specifically, column 6, lines 34-45 of Chen states, among other things, "the paperless image fax-scanning apparatus 400 further connects with the USB device 481 and the printer 482 permitting the user either to print the fax data or the scanned data through a printer, or store the data using the USB device 481." (*Emphasis added*). Thus, the printer 482 of Chen is limited to reading fax or scanned data, and not data from Chen's USB device 481, floppy disc drive 420 or PCM-CIA slot 421. Therefore, Chen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, Applicants' "scanning and/or printing unit prints the scanned result read from the storage units," as recited in independent claim 9.

Since Chen fails to teach or disclose each limitation of independent claim 9, claim 9 is patentable over Chen. Thus, claim 9 is deemed allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 9 are earnestly solicited.

Claims 10-12

Claims 10-12 are also deemed allowable due to at least their dependency on allowable claim 9. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 10-12 are earnestly solicited.

Independent Claim 13

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Applicants respectfully submit that Chen, as relied upon by the Examiner, fails to teach or disclose each limitation as recited in the claim. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that a USB drive 481 could be interpreted to read on Applicants' "storage unit" of claim 13. However, Chen in fact fails to teach or disclose, among other things, Applicants' limitation of "printing the scanned result read from the storage unit," as recited in independent claim 13 for at least the following reasons.

Chen does not state that the printer 482 of Chen reads anything from the Chen USB drive 481. The Examiner asserts on page 8 of the Office Action mailed July 23, 2008 that the printer 482 reads from the storage units. However, the Examiner's assertion is unsubstantiated since the citation in Chen provided by the Examiner fails to teach or disclose "printing the scanned result read from the storage unit." More specifically, column 6, lines 34-45 of Chen states, among other things, "the paperless image fax-scanning apparatus 400 further connects with the USB device 481 and the printer 482 permitting the user either to print the fax data or the scanned data through a printer, or store the data using the USB device 481." (*Emphasis added*). Thus, the printer 482 of Chen is limited to reading fax or scanned data, and not data from Chen's USB device 481. Therefore, Chen fails to teach or disclose, among other things, Applicants' "printing the scanned result read from the storage unit," as recited in independent claim 13.

Since Chen fails to teach or disclose each limitation of independent claim 13, claim 13 is patentable over Chen. Thus, claim 13 is deemed allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 13 are earnestly solicited.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claims 6, 8 and 39-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,068,687 to Ahne et al. (hereinafter "Ahne").

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Claim 6

Claim 6 is also deemed allowable due to at least its dependency on allowable claim 1. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 6 are earnestly solicited.

Independent Claim 8

Applicants respectfully submit that Chen in view of Ahne fail to teach or suggest, among other things, each limitation as recited in the claim. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that a USB drive 481 and a printer 482 in Chen could be interpreted to respectively read on Applicants' "storage unit" and "printing unit" of claim 8. Further, the Examiner alleges that a Kodak PPM200 and other detachable memory in Ahne could be interpreted to read on Applicants' "storage unit" of claim 8. However, Chen in view of Ahne fails to teach or suggest, among other things, Applicants' limitation of "the storage unit to be directly connected to a printing unit," as recited in independent claim 8.

The Examiner states on page 10 of the Office Action mailed July 23, 2008 that "Chen does not directly disclose that USB equipment-481 is directly connected to the printing unit." However, the Examiner relies on Ahne to allegedly teach that the Chen USB drive 481 is directly connected to a printer 482 of Chen. Nevertheless, Ahne, like Chen, also fails to teach or suggest of a direct connection between a storage unit and printing unit, as recited in claim 8. The Examiner cites column 8, lines 6-20 of Ahne for support, yet no where in this citation does Ahne state that the connection between Ahne's PPM200 or other detachable memory is directly attached to the Ahne printer 1. (*Emphasis added*) Ahne states "the PPM200 also has a USB Host port, which allows the user to attach an Iomega Zip Drive to the printer and view the images contained within." (Ahne, col. 8, lines 13-15). However, "to attach" does not constitute "to be directly connected," as required in Applicants' claim 8. An element can be connected to another element via a separate, intermediary element(s); thus direct connection cannot be deduced from Ahne's statement of "to attach." Therefore, Chen in view of Ahne fail to teach or suggest, among other things, Applicants' limitation of "the storage unit to be directly connected to a printing unit," as recited in independent claim 8.

Since Chen fails to teach or disclose each limitation of independent claim 8, claim 8 is

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patentable over Chen. Thus, claim 8 is deemed allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 8 are earnestly solicited.

Independent Claim 39

Applicants respectfully submit that Chen in view of Ahne fail to teach or suggest, among other things, each limitation as recited in the claim. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that a scanning flatbed 311 and a USB drive 481 in Chen could be interpreted to respectively read on Applicants' "scanning unit" and "printing unit" of claim 39. However, Chen in view of Ahne fails to teach or suggest, among other things, Applicants' limitations of "a main body, a scanning unit disposed in the main body," and "a printing unit disposed in the main body," as recited in independent claim 39.

The Examiner fails to make any reference towards "a main body, a scanning unit disposed in the main body," and "a printing unit disposed in the main body," in Chen or Ahne. Actually, the Office Action mailed July 23, 2008 is completely devoid of any "main body;" thus it would be impossible for either Chen's scanning flatbed 311 and Chen's USB drive 481 to be "disposed in the main body." Therefore, Chen in view of Ahne fail to teach or suggest, among other things, Applicants' limitation of "a main body, a scanning unit disposed in the main body," and "a printing unit disposed in the main body," as recited in independent claim 39.

Since Chen fails to teach or disclose each limitation of independent claim 39, claim 39 is patentable over Chen. Thus, claim 39 is deemed allowable.

Claims 40 and 41

Claims 40 and 41 are also deemed allowable due to at least their dependency on allowable claim 39. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 40 and 41 are earnestly solicited.

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Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.


If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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